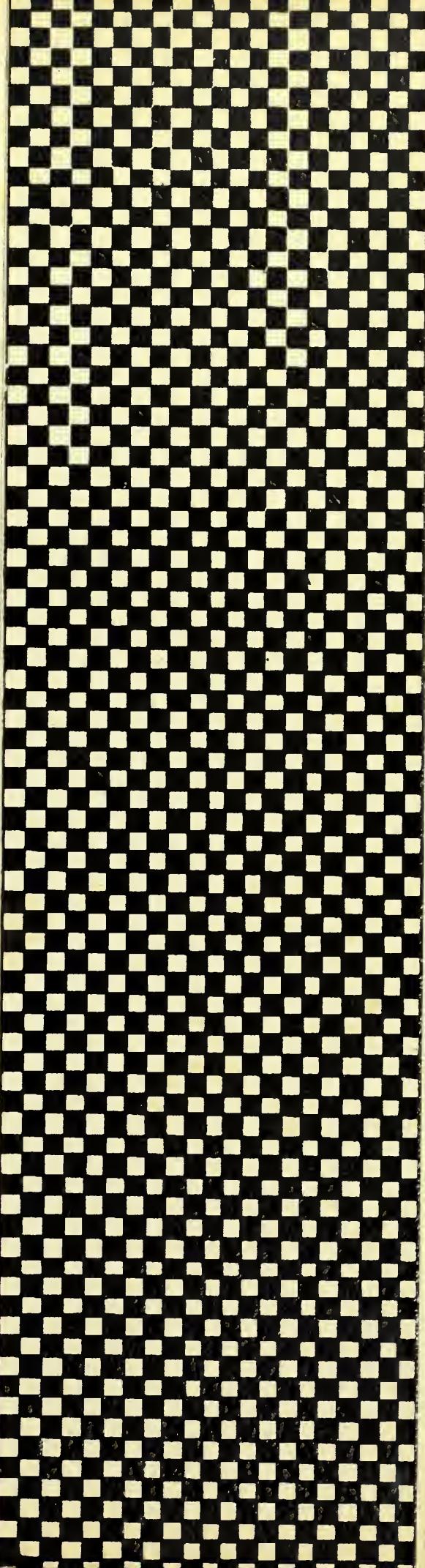
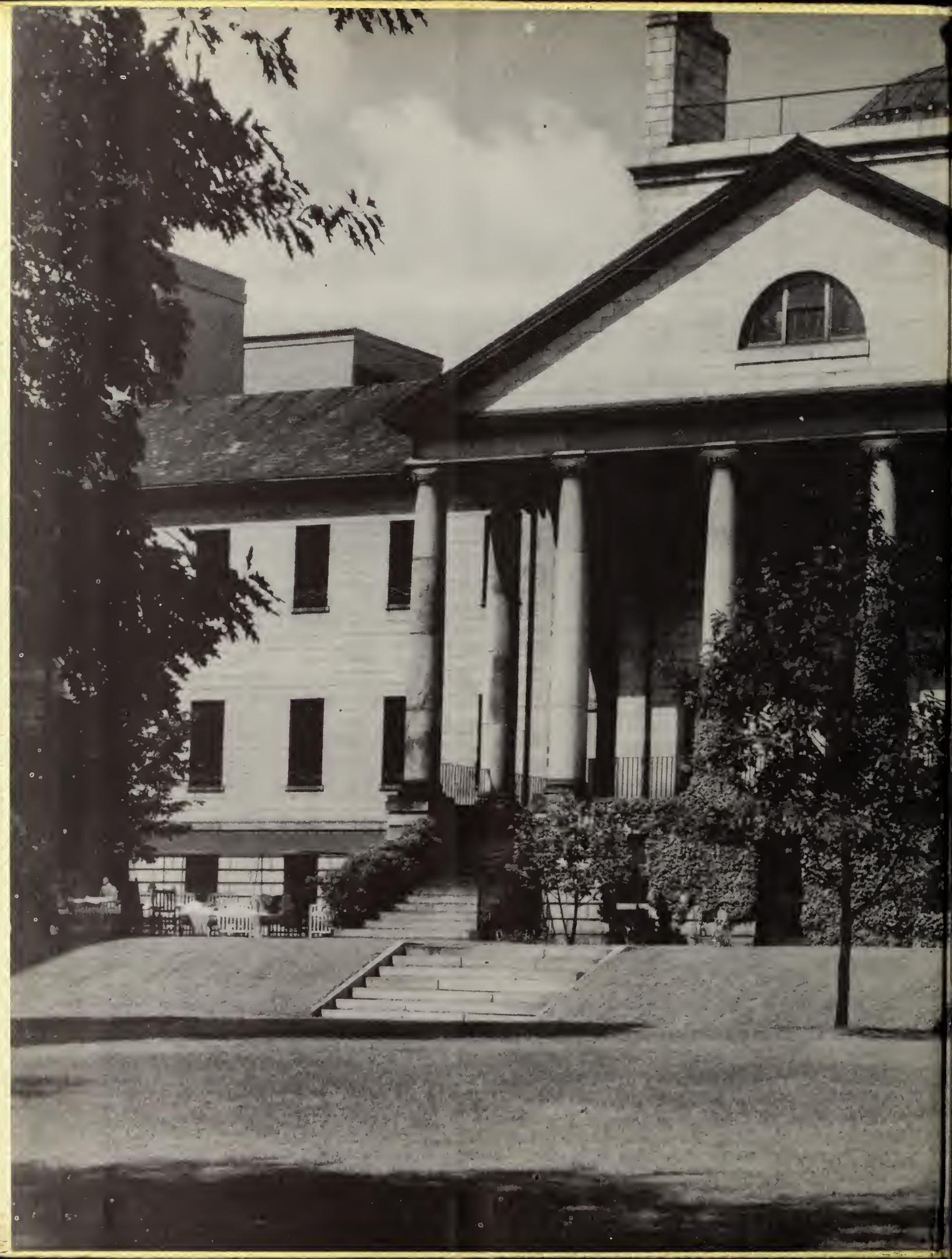


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Yearbook of Massachusetts General Hospital

School of Nursing, Boston



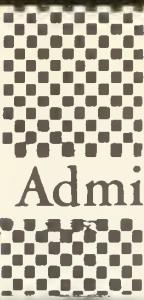
Dedication

Mrs. Virginia Johnsen



WITH APPRECIATION FOR THE HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT YOU HAVE GIVEN, FOR THE TIME AND ENERGY YOU HAVE EXPENDED IN OUR BEHALF, FOR YOUR WISE COUNSELING IN TIME OF NEED, TO YOU, WE THE GRADUATING CLASS DEDICATE OUR YEARBOOK.





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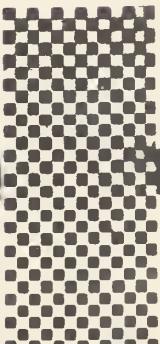
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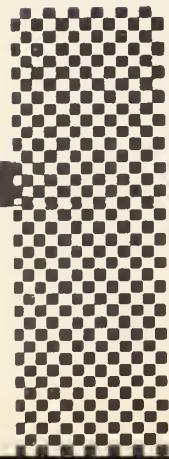
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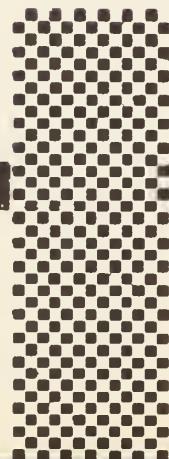
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HISTORY OF SEPTEMBER SECTION

On the second day of September, 1952, we began our student days as "probies". The first six months will be recalled in a whirlpool fantasia of study hours, books, anatomy labs, UOPD, fraternity parties, and Walcott Dances. "Will we last?" "I could never go through this again!" and (groan) "If I'd only known." And then on March first, well drilled on scientific principles and acquiring a promise of "professional attitude", we were SI's.

Bristling with a semblance of self-assurance we masked our bewilderment and went on the wards in full dress regalia of bib and bonnet. Before long, we were introduced to the relief ritual and began to realize the full impact of organization and responsibility.

The class now lived at Thayer and was entitled to twelve "lates" per month. As summer approached, we found a new experience in our first night duty. Fun was had at our summer formal, "Deep Sea Fantasy", the Esplanade concerts, at the swimming pool across-the-way, and on excursions to the near-by beaches. The heat this summer was keeping cool.

Proud S2's we.....fledglings about to be nudged out of our secure nests and into new and different experiences. First to B.L.I. This was new, different, and even exciting. Excitement, we discovered, in our proximity to Vanderbilt Hall and at the get-acquainted dance. Newness and strangeness was offered through new faces. A new experience for most of us.....babies, tiny and rubbery ones, and new "uniforms".....scrub gowns and the unforgettable headgear. No longer did we have to battle the latest coiffure vs. damp New England weather; it was always pin curls and the white headgear. New friends were made among the affiliates.

So we sat through six weeks of classes listening to what we all hope will some day be put to practical and applicable use. The relaxed atmosphere of "SMOKING PERMITTED IN CLASS". The only diversion in this class happened through an occasional dropped ash tray and the turbulent hum of the air conditioner. In way of before-hand knowledge, one of the first questions was "What is the most common cause of pregnancy?"

Class over, there was the mad dash to the mail box where we impatiently awaited a hustled house mother to deliver anticipated mail or the proverbial phone message, "Gentleman called". Now, who could it be? Memories that will remain with us from B.L.I. are the resonance from the delivery room of "Push, mother, push", and the chief complaint of earliest mothers, "Doctor, I'm just too pooped to wiggle."



From our first affiliation, we returned to M.G.H. in the role of night nurse pro temp, before leaving for vacation and on to McLean. At McLean, we first and foremost found our figures approaching the longed for slim and trim lines. This new look however found competition in the temptation of meetings at the coffee shop. As our eyes were opened at McLean we lost our first fear of the mentally ill and gained some "insight". Enjoyed were golf, tennis, walks and more than a few laughs. Our only gripe was "I'm starved, how about you?" To get real tan was our biggest goal....that, or successfully slipping in just past the 1 a.m. curfew. Mother Carnes became a dear friend and symbol of the perfect house mother, if ever there was one.

After returning again and at last to the ivy columned citadel of learning we were soon caught up in the sterile hustle and bustle of the O.R.

After weeks of tryouts, script writing, and rehearsals, "Dear Diary" our senior play was presented in the Fall. Orchids to the cast and to our class advisor, Mrs. Johnsen! Hit songs at M.G.H. that fall were "Life Upon the Wicked Wards", and "I'm Just A Gal Who Can't Stand Blood".

Our last affiliation was spent on the pediatric service. Many of us found a challenge and joy in making Thanksgiving and Christmas real holidays for the children. Artistic talents were displayed on the windows of Burnham. Christmas for the youngsters was complete with Santa Claus and a poster paint "Rudolf". Holiday fun off duty was had at the "Silver Bell Ball". The Candle light Service for patients and hospital staff lent a significant spirit to the season. And as the New Year rolled around, so began the "beginning of the end". After a bout of croup tents, formulas, and diapers, we returned to general duty in the role of nurse interns. On the seventeenth of January we received our tall caps. The capping service was followed by open house at Bartlett Hall for the new interns and the very proud parents. The old saying, "another day, another dollar", gathered new meaning as we were now to make a salary.

In June, Baccalaureate and Graduation services were held. Our goal has been nearly reached, for now as we count the final days before we put aside our "checks" and step into whites, we look back on three full years and ahead to plans of marriage, apartments, college, and more nursing.



Dear Diary,

"We are poor little probies who have lost our way!" That particular phrase heralded our small, yet spirited, class of March 1956. Our day of entrance will not be forgotten. It was a windy, rainy, and gloomy day.

The warmth and congenial atmosphere of Walcott living room where we all gathered for our welcoming tea was a sharp contrast of the outside elements. Yet we were frightened as we found ourselves in a sea of strange, crisp uniforms. Gone were our familiar high school and college crowds, our corner drug store and campus gatherings, and the teachers and professors we knew so well! We realized in an instant that those precious memories were far behind us now. This was the beginning of a new life for everyone of us.

Yet, looking back, we didn't fully appreciate its implications or the hardships, the tears, and the laughs we would eventually share. The prime interest was the glamor of the NURSING PROFESSION. We were to learn quickly, however.

How could we forget....the trudge to the fifth floor of Charles Street without the convenience of an elevator -- in the dorm we were not "broken in right" -- the first class in four years ever late for roll call -- the intelligence and know-how of our Big Sisters with ten patients to "do-up", plus all the medicines, treatments, and two "caths" (whatever they were) -- the urge to pack our bags and catch the next train home -- what happened to our former ten hours of sleep every night -- those mimeographed sheets, procedure manuals, smocks, aprons, and notebooks we struggled with every day -- the confusion of hat and coat checkings in the basement of the White Building (no wonder we were late for roll call) -- those "educational" discussions while supposedly studying Greisheimer -- Nursing Arts, Miss Mawn, and how to care for a toothbrush A through Z -- those rather warm (!!) cooking classes in Phillips House basement -- what is being served in Bohemia for breakfast these days -- looking forward to our first physicals in O.P.D. after those blow by blow descriptions from the older students -- trying to preserve optimum heat from the laundry to Thayer class room with the hot pack brigade -- communicating between floors via the fire escapes -- the "side by side Cranial Nerve" composition for Mrs. Chesley -- the "chemical equations" at the Walcott Dances -- the debut of "our song" at Big Sister party in WRR -- the beach party at Lynn Beach marking our grand exit -- Any questions on that?

S1's already and still feeling like probies -- serving those hot foods hot and our cold foods cold (?) -- medicine classes with Mrs. Johnsen and "Don Juan" -- our separation from the "other five" -- the "Silver Sleigh", our first formal -- the introduction to surgery cough, turn, deep breath -- first night duties -- those precious night nurses' breakfasts -- St. Patrick's Day on White 7 -- those different (?) psychology lectures -- the numerous fraternity parties.

S2 period the longest stretch -- changing the Drawsheet Cover with the "New Yorker's", Mr. Syd I'off as the artistic contributor -- the incessant chain of diapers -- our spinach green, beet red and Vi Penta colored aprons -- Thayer basement never recovered from the Spring Spree and painting can with one brush -- a summer vacation at Hampton, Scituate, on the Cape, or in N.Y. -- O.P.D. with every week-end off -- the Student Nurse Convention in Chicago -- four week scratch on W8 -- the orthopedic question "when to release traction?" -- those long preparations for the Senior Show -- Can-Can girls almost danced without music -- diamonds became best friends.....McLean and its much patronized coffee shoppe -- Mr. Lennox, "Got any problems?" and those informal classes -- "The Queen of Hearts Ball" -- our farewell party lasting unit 2 a.m.

Our heads being held higher with the onset of S3 period -- the O.R. of "when not to use toothed forceps" -- the marvelous senior formal at the Wayside Inn with 3 a.m. breakfasts -- the first March class to be capped before graduating -- the departure to BLI the fast speedy time-saving elevators in the nurses' home -- smoking in class - HMS IV's attempting to dress and diaper the babies -- looking forward to relief and nights --

Perhaps, Dear Diary, these few impressions will make us all think of many more situations and in years to come we will realize that our three years of training were the most wonderful part of our nursing career.









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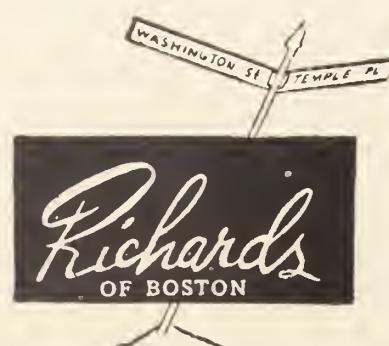
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